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A 4-1-4 SEMESTER PLAN FOR GCC

A proposal well worth the consideration of the college is the development of a 4-1-4 semester plan to replace the present two semester system. This idea is not radically different than our current system; it does involve, however, a rescheduling of semester lengths for the purpose of accommodating the academic program more closely to the individual needs of the student. The 4-1-4 plan is based on three separate semesters per school year instead of two. The first and third semesters would average 12 weeks in length each, while the second, or interim, semester is one month long. Because the insertion of this interim semester shortens the two larger semesters by some two weeks each, the normal workload of the student is usually 12 credits rather than the current 15 per semester. During the winter semester, each student selects one course to be studied in depth throughout the four weeks of the term.

While the course selected for the winter semester is often connected with the student's major, he is not limited to this consideration. In fact, for the student who is uncertain of his choice of major, this offers a good opportunity to explore a promising interest which he would not otherwise have been able to examine as closely. One of the primary advantages of this plan is that it allows the students to work independently in an area of his own choice without having to worry at the same time about papers, tests and readings for other courses. In addition to this opportunity for independent study, the interim semester could be used for remedial work. If a student had failed a course taken during the first semester, he could take it over during the winter term. The exclusive,

concentrated study would probably be the best thing to help him pass it. Likewise, an advanced student could take an accelerated course and be able to finish in one month that which takes most students three months. Several departments also require outside work as part of the student's curriculum. This unscheduled month makes it much easier to place the student in a good job and allows the student to concentrate solely on his work without running back to the college to attend other classes.

Despite the advantages which this system offers, there are also some difficulties presented in developing and changing over to this plan. The 4-1-4 plan would necessitate some restructuring of existing courses and the creation of new courses for the interim semester. Since the first and third semester are two weeks shorter than our present two semesters, the instructor would have to cover the same amount of material in 12 weeks instead of 14. This does not, however, imply that the course matter be abridged at all. Each student would be taking only four courses instead of five, thus the class hour could be lengthened by fifteen minutes, which would compensate for the two week loss. New courses for the winter semester could be taken in part from many of the regular courses. For instance, a department could offer courses which pursue in depth events or ideas which could only be briefly discussed in the regular course. The course of study should not be rigidly structured anyway; each student should be able to meet with the instructor and plan a course suited to his own needs and interests. Every student, however, would also attend the basic lectures and classroom work given by the instructor. (con't. on pg. 2)

(4-1-4 plan, con't.)

The biggest problems which will be encountered come not from within GCC but from the outside. The first involves the transfer of credits. Since GCC is a two year college, many of its graduates decide to transfer to four year schools. The 4-1-4 plan is not the predominant system as yet and many colleges not using it may be uncertain as to whether the two systems are comparable in subject matter and quality. Under the new plan, the student earns on the average six credits less at the end of two years than he would have received using the present two semester system. Thus a college could decide that a transfer from this system must take two extra courses to meet their requirements. The second problem concerns the administrative difficulties involved in instituting this system. As a state-supported institution, a decision of this nature may have to be made on the state level instead of by GCC's own officials.

I am very much in favor of instituting a 4-1-4 plan at GCC; in the long run, the advantages will far outweigh the initial problems. This plan is not impractical for it would adapt itself equally well to all departments of the college. As a point of interest, I think that the interim semester lends itself especially well to the much discussed pass-fail system. The absence of grades would lessen the sense of competition among the students and, ideally, the resulting decrease in pressure would enable the student to take a more positive approach to his directed study. In conclusion, the physical revamping planned for the new campus would be well matched by a comparable reapproach to the intellectual material inside. cp

THE PEACE MARCH ON WASHINGTON

It really happened. On Saturday, November 15, one of the most beautiful scenes that I have ever witnessed took place in Washington D.C.

We had arrived in Washington early on a very cold Saturday morning. After encountering police checkpoints, the bus finally parked among countless thousands of other buses. There were an estimated 5500 buses in town for the peace march. This is not including all other sorts of transportation used in getting to Washington.

While thousands upon thousands of people were rallying in front of the Capitol building, there was a march down Pennsylvania Avenue past the White House to the Washington Monument. All of this was taking place under the eyes of riot squad police, national guardsmen and helicopters flying above the throngs of people.

The massive gathering at the Washington Monument heard such speakers as Senators McCarthy, McGovern, and Goodell. Also Dick Gregory, Dr. Benjamin Spock, Mitch Miller, Leonard Bernstein and Mrs. Martin Luther King were among others who spoke to the people of peace.

Arlo Guthrie, Peter, Paul and Mary, Richie Havens, and John Hartford were among those who gave musical performances throughout the afternoon.

Those few who tried to precipitate violence by their chants were drowned out by one overwhelming chant calling for "peace now". At the end of the day-long plead for peace, a whitedove was released and repeatedly flew over the people gathered there. What a beautiful foreshadowing. Also the cast from the play Hair sang Aguar-

(Peace March, con't)
 ius - Let the Sun Shine, and thou-
 sands joined the chorus, dancing,
 singing and waving their arms
 with the symbol of peace.

I readily agree one was affected
 by the radiance of humanity dis-
 played throughout the whole day.
 It gave me a glorious feeling that
 there is still hope for mankind.
 Plus I dare say that 500,000 peo-
 ple in addition to all the others
 the world over supporting the
 Peace Movement will agree also.

Peace,

Kevin Maloney

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PROMETHEUS RETURNS

The college literary and fine
 arts magazine, Prometheus, will
 soon publish its first issue of
 the school year. This magazine
 is written and illustrated by
 students here at Greenfield Com-
 munity College.

If anyone is interested in sub-
 mitting imaginative writing or
 poetry or in working on the pub-
 lication of the magazine, forms
 have been distributed throughout
 the Main building and the West
 building. These forms may be sub-
 mitted at the newspaper office or
 at the library to Daniel Patterson.

.. Daniel Patterson

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Applications for the VISTA pro-
 gram are available in Miss Camp-
 bell's office (Room 104).

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STUDENTS FOR A BETTER COMMUNITY

This organization was created
 as the student's answer to the
 problems facing the Community
 College Student. It is a student
 idea and is run entirely by the
 students.

I have found that people often
 generalize about college students
 by saying that they are all free-
 loaders or loafers. We are fight-
 ing against this idea. The col-
 lege has done things in the past
 that have benefited the community
 but the community very seldom
 hears of it. SBC is not only
 helping the community, but it is
 getting the credit for it as well.
 There have been articles in the
 local newspaper (Greenfield Recor-
 der-Gazette) and programs on WHAI
 backing our organization.

Many students are unaware of
 what goals might be achieved with
 an organization of this type. It
 is true that we have done things
 for the community to cut down
 friction between GCC students and
 the citizens, but we also have
 plans to better ourselves in the
 process. We have formed a Year-
 book Committee whose sole purpose
 is to organize a Yearbook Staff....
 and to make sure that there is a
 yearbook this year. We plan to
 get involved in town elections
 and to obtain the support of those
 in office.

We are supporting the upcoming
 variety show which is being put
 on by the community and by stu-
 dents of GCC. The proceeds of
 this show will be donated to the
 fund to rebuild the covered bridge
 by the pumping station. We have
 also raked leaves to obtain dona-
 tions for this fund. In regard
 to student benefits, SBC has plans
 to better the housing conditions
 involving college students. If

the community has a high opinion of us, we feel that they will be more willing to help us in return.

All students should try to attend the SBC meetings and listen to what is being achieved. If you are for our organization, we ask you to join. If you do not agree with our precepts or methods, we will listen to helpful criticisms. If the students work together, it is very difficult to limit the achievements which they can realize.

This organization will grow as the community need for it increases. Eventually we may join a national organization for student volunteers. The next meeting will be on Monday following the Thanksgiving recess. The time and place will be announced. If you would like further knowledge of this organization, please see you class officers.

Respectfully Submitted,

Charles Kulch,
Sophomore Class President

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EASY RIDER

"We blew it, man, we really blew it," remarks Peter Fonda in "Easy Rider". Frankly, I couldn't agree with him more. I found "Easy Rider" to be a continuing bore which at times was vaguely interrupted by far too few hollow goals and ideas, just like many peoples' lives.

The basic theme of the movie is excellent. The idea of the young man looking for a lost America is indeed a timely topic. However, neither the "actors" nor the "script" offered much entertainment.

(Easy Rider, con't.)

Yet, perhaps Peter Fonda and Dennis Hopper were not trying to entertain anyone. After all, Bob Dylan once asked, "Did you ever turn around to see the frowns on the jugglers and the clowns when they all do tricks for you? and don't you know that it ain't no good, Miss Lonely, to let other people get your kicks for you?"

Therefore, although I did not particularly care for the way the material was presented, I do feel that it should be seen. It may or may not entertain you, but it will make you question your position and goals in life.

Chuck Milkey

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GREENFIELD COMMUNITY COLLEGE PROGRAMS COMMITTEE PRESENTS:

Roman Polanski's

"REPULSION"

starring Catherine Deneuve.
Wednesday, December 3, 1969 at
8:00 pm in the GCC auditorium.
Admission free with college I.D.
11.00 without.

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COMING UP:

JUDY COLLINS

for the Spring Weekend Concert.

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Editor: Christine Powers
Staff: Chuck Milkey,
Kevin Maloney, Daniel Patterson,
Jim Atkins, Pat Mirabello, Sue
Brissette, Sue Therrian, Charles
Kulch.